

4.8 Environmental Justice Element

Minority and Low Income populations were identified and mapped in order to examine the potential impacts, positive and negative, of proposed transportation projects. U.S. Census 2000 Block Group data was used to identify Minority and Low Income populations within the High Point MPO. (Needed TAZ data was not available for the MPO.) Census Tracts were viewed as too large of geographic areas to appropriately identify populations and Blocks presented limitations in reported data needed for the analysis. There are 117 Block Groups pertaining to the High Point MPO. This includes Block Groups that are location partially in the MPO.

Data on Race, Hispanic or Latino Origin, and Persons Below Poverty were used. Calculations were performed on the data to determine the percentage of persons within each Block Group, based on the total Block Group's population, that were within the following groups: Black/African American, Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latino Origin, and Below Poverty. A calculation was then done combining the Race and Hispanic/Latino Origin data to identify the Total Minority population and percentage for each Block Group. The calculated percentages for each of the Minority and Low Income populations were graphed to determine the thresholds for mapping. The thresholds were determined based on where key shifts occurred in population representation by Block Group.

The following table illustrates the thresholds established based on the analysis. Block Groups with a percentage above the established thresholds were identified as significant for the corresponding population.

Table 4.8-1

Population	Black/African American	Asian	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Hispanic/Latino Origin	Total Minority	Below Poverty
Threshold	20%	3%	none established	5%	30%	20%

Based on these percentages, all Minority and Low Income populations were mapped to show the geographical distribution of the populations within the High Point MPO. As well, the Total Minority and Below Poverty populations were superimposed on one another to see any noted relationships.

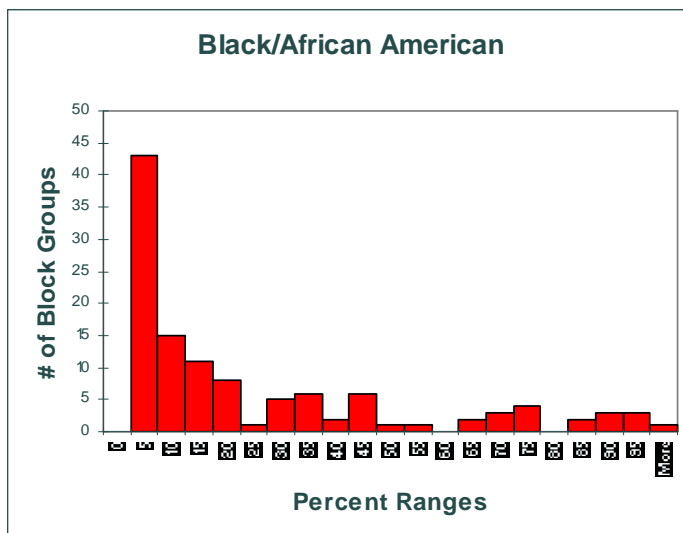
On the next page is an example to illustrate the approach taken with the analysis. In this example, the data illustrates that the Black/African American population within the Block Groups ranges from 0.11% to 96.42% with an average of 22.76%. A threshold of 20% was used based on what the data revealed as the point where a key shift in the population representation by Block Group occurs. Block Groups with greater than 20% were seen as having a higher representation of the Black/African American population than the remaining Block Groups within the MPO.

The transportation projects by horizon year were then superimposed on the maps to determine the relationships between the projects and Minority and Low Income populations. The mapped data combined with impact assessment criteria will determine project impacts.

4.8.1 Environmental Justice Methodology Example

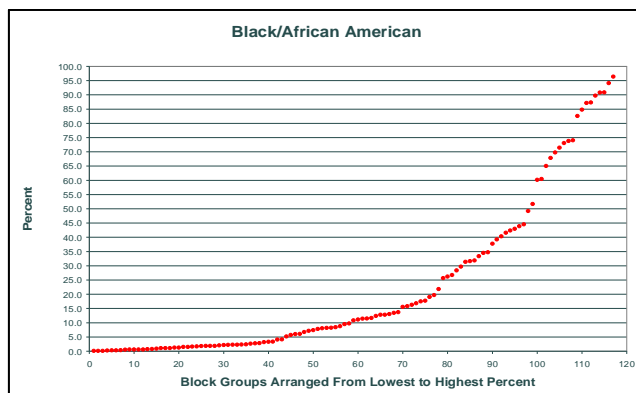
The two-tiered approach (above the threshold and below the threshold) establishes the framework for a public involvement campaign.

Black/African American	
Mean	22.7606598
Median	10.80271795
Standard Deviation	27.61314985
Minimum	0.11055832
Maximum	96.41909814



Percent Ranges	# of Block Groups
0	0
5	43
10	15
15	11
20	8
25	1
30	5
35	6
40	2
45	6
50	1
55	1
60	0
65	2
70	3
75	4
80	0
85	2
90	3
95	3
More	1

Note: The number of Block Groups identified for each percent range is the number from the previous percent up to and including the noted percent. For example, the 15 Block Groups noted in the 10% range includes Block Groups with percentages above 5.00% and up to and including 10.00%.



Data Source: U.S. Bureau of the
Census, Census 2000

